(b) if so, the total number of persons in the,waiting-list till December, 2006;

(c) the total number of applicants in the waiting-list in December, 2005; and

(d) the time taken on an average by the BSNL to provide telephone connections to its subscribers in the years 2005, 2006 and the by-gone months of the year 2007?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR. SHAKEEL AHMAD): (a) Yes, Sir. There is waiting list for getting BSNL's telephone connection at some places.

(b) Total number of persons waitlisted for BSNL's connection as on 31st December, 2006 was 9.28 lakhs.

(c) Total number of waitlisted person as on 31st December, 2005 was 15.72 lakhs.

(d) Information about percentage of telephone connections provided by BSNL within 7 days in technical feasible areas, which is the prescribed norm during 2005, 2006 and 2007 is given below:—

Year	Percentage of connections provided within prescribed norms (within 7 days) in technical feasible areas
2005	85%
2006	96%
2007 (up to January)	95.6%

Foreigners working as CEO and CFO in Indian Telecom Industry

†1816. DR. MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI:
SHRI RAM JETHMALANI:

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state.

(a) whether it is a fact that many foreigners are working in the capacity of CEO and CFO in a number of companies in the Telecom Industry of the country;

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

(b) if so, the names of such companies in which foreigners were working in the above capacity as in December, 2006;

(c) the countries, to which they belong to;

(d) whether there is any possibility of security threat as a result of foreigners working in the above capacity; and

(e) if so, the reaction of Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR. SHAKEEL AHMAD): (a) to (c) As per records available, CEO of M/s Tata Teleservices Limited is an American citizen and the Managing Director (MD) of Tata Teleservices (Maharashtra) Limited is a U.S. citizen. MD of Tata Teleservices (Maharashtra) Limited has also obtained Overseas Indian Citizen card.

(d) and (e) The Government has notified Press Note 5 (2005 Series) dated 3.11.2005 for enhancement of Foreign Direct Investment from 49 per cent to 74 per cent subject to certain licensing and security conditions contained therein. The date of implementation of said press note for the existing telecom service providers has been extended up to 2nd April, 2007.

Action plan of Department of Posts

1817. SHRIMATI SUPRIYA SULE:
SHRIMATI SHOBHANA BHARTIA:

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether in a bid to cut down losses and achieve a higher degree of competitiveness, the Department of Posts has put together an ambitious action plan to connect most of its major post offices across the country and is planning to invest Rs. 6,000 crore for the technology upgradation across its postal network;

(b) whether India Post strongly needs to enhance its technology to compete with the private players; and